

**Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database
Monthly Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Conference Call
Meeting Notes**

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

Conference Line: 888-710-9336; Pass Code: 3306530

Attendees: Aetna, Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Celticare of Massachusetts, Cigna Health, Inc., Connecticut General Life Insurance Co., Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Express Scripts Inc, EyeMed Vision Care, Fallon Community Health Plan, First American Administrators, Inc., Fort Dearborn Life Insurance Company, Golden Rule Insurance Company, Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company - FAC, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Health New England, Inc., Health Plans Inc., Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NJ, Innoviant, MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Network Health, New England Dental Administrators, Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Principal Life Insurance Company, Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, RxSolution, Inc., Standard Insurance Company, Sun Life Financial, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Transamerica Life and Protection, Tufts Health Plan, UMR, Inc., UniCare Life and Health Insurance Company, Union Security Insurance Company, United Healthcare Group, Wellpoint, Inc., Zenith Administrators, Inc.

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division) convenes a monthly technical assistance group (TAG) conference call with health care payers to discuss the all-payer claims database (APCD) implementation and provide technical support to the group. The following is a summary of the meeting from Tuesday, July 12, 2011:

I. Welcome and Introduction

Y. Joo welcomed everyone to the Massachusetts all-payer claims database (APCD) technical assistance group (TAG) conference call and conducted a roll call of payer participants. Y. Joo thanked payers for joining the TAG call and for their engagement with the Division to make the implementation of the APCD successful. He reviewed the TAG call agenda with payers.

II. APCD Administrative Updates

a. TAG call summary notes (June 2011 meeting) available on the APCD website

- The Division is committed to providing payers with the documentation and support necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the APCD. While the Division encourages full payer participation on the TAG calls, the Division recognizes that some payers are not able to participate and therefore has made

meeting summary notes available for download on the APCD website (www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd) under USER RESOURCES to ensure important information is available to all. The meeting notes for June 14, 2011 are currently available and meeting summary notes for July 12, 2011 should be available approximately a week after the conference call.

b. FAQ documentation – Updated July 2011

- The Division informed payers that additional support is available through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which have been updated to include two additional questions. The FAQ document (Updated July 2011) is available on the Division's APCD website (www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd) under USER RESOURCES. Questions #74 and #75 have been added and are indicated in the Revision History found on the first page of the document.

c. Submission Guide Updates

- The Division informed payers that minor updates will be applied to the Submission Guides to reflect communications with payers since version 2.1 was released in December 2010. The expected changes should not affect development and programming for payers and are primarily being applied to provide updated documentation. All changes will be reflected on the Revision History of each affected Submission Guide. Payers will be notified when the updated documentation is available for download from the Division's APCD website (www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd).
- Bhargavi Tumu Kopparapu (Wellpoint) asked the Division to confirm that the upcoming updates to the Submission Guides would not be changes to data elements. Y. Joo responded by confirming that the updates to the Submission Guide will be minor and will be reflected as an update from version 2.1 (current) to version 2.2. The Division will consider more substantive changes to the APCD Submission Guides with a version 3.0 update.
- Kristyl Thompson (United Healthcare Group) asked the Division to comment on how much time payers will have to implement the changes to technical specifications updated in version 3.0 of the APCD Submission Guides. Y. Joo acknowledged the need for payers to have time to prepare for substantive changes to technical specifications and reiterated the Division's commitment to work collaboratively with payers to identify potential enhancements and updates. In addition, he reminded payers that the Division plans to convene technical and analytic workgroups, tasked in-part to propose updates to APCD technical specifications, which will launch as early as fall 2011.

III. Technical Support

a. Payer Specific Questions

- A payer representative asked if the Division is considering automating the process of uploading files on SENDS+. She noted that submissions to other states do not require as much manual intervention and the added functionality would help payers be more efficient. Y. Joo acknowledged that this question had been asked previously by payers and confirmed that SENDS+ does not currently automate uploading of files. The Division welcomes feedback and comments to improve processes and support, which may include functional enhancements to SENDS+, and encourages payers to submit these directly to the Division's liaison team by email.
- Nancy Dillon (Northeast Delta Dental Administrators) asked for a status update regarding the formal reporting extension request that was submitted for the Division's review. Y. Joo stated that the Division is working to review extension requests from payers and will be responding with a formal response letter shortly.
- A representative from ExpressScripts informed the Division that they currently submit data required by other states to OnPoint in Maine and asked the Division to comment on reasons for utilizing the SENDS+ application rather than the same product available through OnPoint. Y. Joo stated that health care claims data collection efforts beginning in 2007 for the Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council initially utilized the Maine Health Information Center (now OnPoint). Beginning in 2009, the Division assumed the responsibility of claims data intake on behalf of the HCQCC because of prior experience and expertise with health care claims data as well as the availability of tools and resources such as SENDS+ to support the intake, processing, and production of data for the HCQCC's analytic purposes.

IV. Additional Items and Next Steps

- The **next TAG call scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th from 2pm – 3pm EST** and subsequent conference calls are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 P.M.